

CASTILLA

Y

NADA QUE SE PAREZCA A TI

TOURIST NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

LEÓN



PARK HOUSES AND THEMATIC CENTRES



The Park Houses and Thematic Centres are public use infrastructures conceived as information and meeting points for the Protected Natural Areas of Castile and León, both for visitors and local people.

They are staffed by teams of educators and environmental interpreters who are experts in each natural space, and either through the educators themselves or through visits to their exhibition halls, they provide detailed and close information about all the riches of the natural areas and their surroundings: biodiversity, ethnography, etc., as well as the different possibilities for enjoyment offered through trail networks, viewpoints, recreational areas or other points of interest.

The Park Houses are spread across the Network of Protected Natural Spaces (REN), serving as the suggested entry points to these areas. The Thematic Centres, located in different natural areas, bring us closer to specific emblematic species and habitats of the community.

One of their main objectives is to provide the necessary knowledge to facilitate a respectful approach to these unique areas, and to have the necessary keys to identify, value and interpret the cultural and natural heritage of these places.



TOURIST PROPOSALS

Iglesia y casa natal de San Juan de la Cruz, Fontiveros, Ávila (cedida agencia Ical)



CONVENTO DE CARMELITAS (BIRTHPLACE OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS), FONTIVEROS, ÁVILA

Saint John of the Cross, whose birth name was Juan de Yepes Álvarez, was born in Fontiveros in 1542. He was one of the great mystics of Christianity, a poet, and the first Carmelite friar of the reform of Santa Teresa, so he experienced real hardships and isolation. He became vicar and confessor of the nuns, as well as prior and master of novices of the Discalced Carmelites. His birthplace was converted into an oratory in 1680 and attended by the friars of his first foundation (Duruelo) and expanded to a Discalced Carmelites convent in 1721. The church has a Latin cross plan, with two side chapels, a semicircular dome and a lantern with a small window. A beautiful carving by Gregorio Hernández overlooks the main Baroque-style altarpiece. It is worth noting a small figure of the same saint from the 17th century. The convent choir, the old cemetery and the friars' oratory are also preserved.



Parque Natural Sabinas del Arlanza - Yecla, Burgos



SABINARES DEL ARLANZA - LA YECLA, BURGOS

The Sabinas del Arlanza Natural Park - La Yecla, with an extension of 39,173 hectares spread across 22 villages in Burgos, has been a protected natural area since 2020. It gets its name from the river Arlanza, a tributary of the river Duero that runs through the region from east to west, and from the large wooded area that characterises the territory with the constant presence of a conifer, the *Juniperus Thurifera*, known as savine and locally as juniper. In this protected area, there are juniper groves with specimens over two thousand years old. The other characteristic species is the holm oak, whose wood has been used in the region to produce charcoal. Culturally, the Park protects important sites that have significance in the history of Castile and the Spanish language: the town of Covarrubias and the monasteries of San Pedro de Arlanza and Santo Domingo de Silos. Within its landscapes, and lending its name to the natural area itself, is La Yecla, a deep and narrow gorge carved into the limestone rocks of the Peñas de Cervera, through a series of bridges and suspended footbridges that allow visitors to walk through the narrow gorge, just 500 metres long



THE MEDIEVAL JOUSTS OF HOSPITAL DE ORBIGO, LEON

The first weekend of June, the town of Hospital de Órbigo in León travels back in time to the 15th century. Its streets, its houses and its people immerse themselves in medieval times. A grand medieval market with bustling life around it, foot and horseback combats with different weapons, knights and ladies in their costumes, etc. The legend of the "Passo Honroso" honours Don Suero de Quiñones, and tells that in January 1434, Don Suero de Quiñones requested permission from King Juan II to hold a tournament. In love with Doña Leonor de Tovar, Don Suero suffered for his love by fasting and wearing a heavy iron collar around his neck every Thursday. To win the admiration of the lady, he challenged all the knights who dared to come and fight at the Bridge of Órbigo, promising to break up to 300 lances. In the month of July, the tournament was held, lasting 30 days, and 166 lances were broken. A year later, Don Suero married Doña Leonor, and 24 years later, one of the defeated knights in the joust would end Don Suero's life.



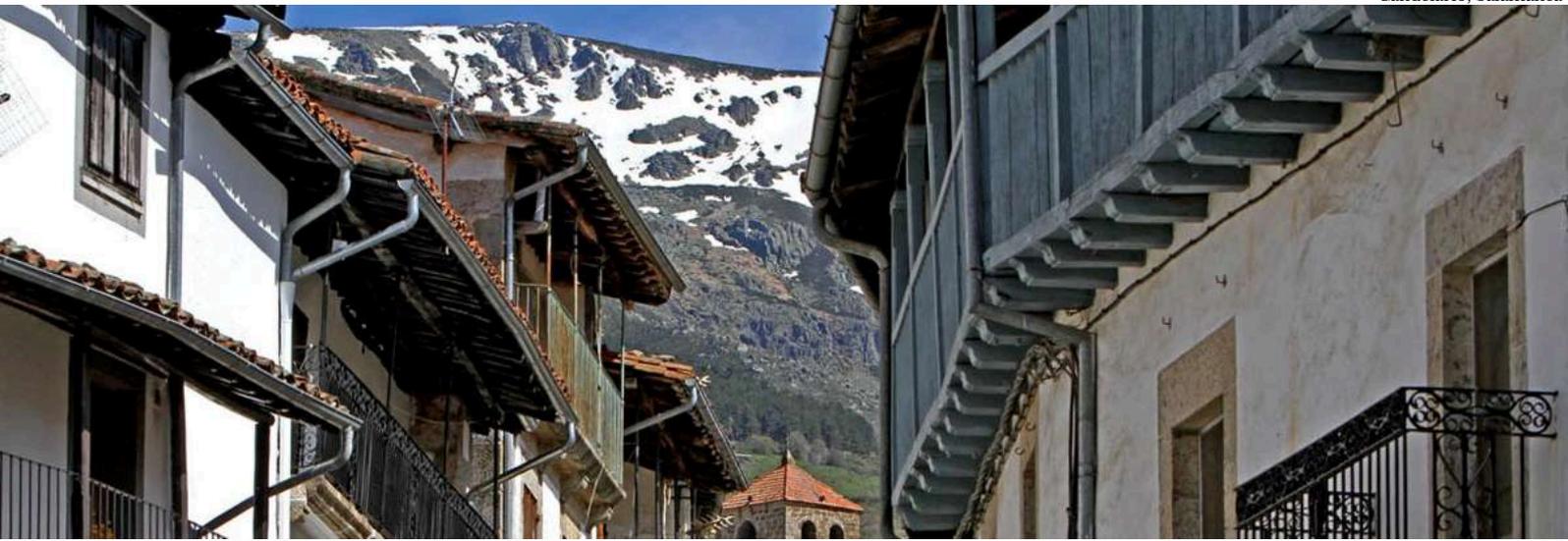
Alfombra floral realizada por la Asociación de Floristas de Carrión de los Condes, Palencia (cedida agencia Ical)



CORPUS CHRISTI IN CARRIÓN DE LOS CONDES, PALENCIA

Carrión de los Condes, in the heart of the Camino de Santiago, celebrates its Corpus Christi on 2 June, a popular festival where the town is adorned with beautiful floral carpets over 2 kilometres long, crafted by its residents, filling the town with art and colour. Undoubtedly, it's a very special occasion to enjoy the beauty of this town, thanks to these original floral carpets that earned the distinction of Tourist Interest of Castile and León in 2008. Its significance transcends borders, and many visitors come to enjoy this day, its solemn mass and the procession of children who have made their first communion, parading accompanied by the brotherhoods, the Carrionesa choir, the municipal band and the entire town. All is set for enjoying Corpus Christi in Carrión de los Condes.





HISTORICAL SITE OF CANDELARIO, SALAMANCA

Located 70 kilometres southwest of Salamanca and just ten minutes from Béjar, Candelario, nestled in the natural area of the same name, is one of the most beautiful towns in the province and boasts a curious popular architecture. The houses display wide stone walls and spacious galleries with wooden balconies for curing sausages from the slaughter. Not to mention the characteristic batipuertas, which protect against the harsh winter weather and heavy snowfall. A network of channels carrying crystal-clear water from the melted snow runs through the steep streets of the town. These channels, called sprinklers, enchant us with the sound of the flowing water. Standing out in the municipality, declared a historic site in 1975, are the Parish Church of the Assumption, with a magnificent Mudejar coffered ceiling, the Hermitage of Christ of the Refuge and the Museum of the Chacinera House. Its surroundings lend themselves to various nature and active tourism activities such as hiking, biking routes, skiing and other mountain sports.



Estatua Juan Bravo, Segovia



ANICETO MARINAS SCULPTOR, SEGOVIA

He was born in Segovia, in the neighbourhood of San Millán, in 1866. He was granted a scholarship by the Provincial Council of Segovia to study at the San Fernando School in Madrid and, through winning a competition, was awarded a scholarship in Rome where he stayed for four years. Although he is primarily known for his sculptural work, he is also skilled in painting. According to his disciple, also from Segovia, Florentino Trapero "possessed an excellent spirit that radiated through his sculptures." But if we focus on his sculptures, perhaps one of his most recognisable works is that of Velázquez, in front of the Prado Museum. In Segovia, we can see several sculptural works. The most significant one, located in the gardens leading to El Alcázar, is the monument to Daoiz and Velarde. The sculpture of Juan Bravo is in Plaza de San Martín. The bust of Don José Rodao is on Paseo del Salón. At the IES Mariano Quintanilla, we can find La Ninfa del Bosque and a bronze amphora. The sculpture "Hermanos de Leche" was loaned by the Prado Museum to the Segovia Museum for a few years. But we cannot forget his works of imagery, La Soledad al pie de la Cruz and the Cristo de la última Palabra, both in the Church of San Millán.





PALACIO DE LOS HURTADO DE MENDOZA, ALMAZÁN, SORIA

Standing majestically atop Almazán's Plaza Mayor is this wonderful Renaissance palace, witness to the comings and goings of noblemen and aristocrats who passed through the town of Almazán. It was the Hurtado de Mendoza family's residence. Declared a Cultural Heritage Site since 1991, this palace is a symbol of Almazán's most flourishing period in terms of the town's modernisation. It boasts the privilege of facing the river Duero to the north, through its slender Gothic gallery merging with the fortified enclosure, forming a beautiful landscape. The main façade is organised symmetrically, with simple windows on the lower floor and small balconies crowned with triangular pediments on brackets on the upper floor. It is a classic façade with harmonious lines, where the door and balcony merge, the latter being topped by the coat of arms of the Hurtado de Mendoza family. Between April and July 1496, the Catholic Monarchs stayed in the building, making it one of the palaces where they stayed most frequently.



FIESTAS OF SAN PEDRO REGALADO IN VALLADOLID



Every year, Valladolid celebrates its patron saint festivities around 13 May, the day of San Pedro Regalado, this year from 3 May to 20 May. One of the eagerly awaited events is the Castilian Market, held in Plaza de San Pablo, where nearly 100 artisans get involved and craft workshops take place. On the same square, the street performance based on "El Hereje" commences, taking the audience through various scenes from Miguel Delibes' novel, which is steeped in history. The festivities extend to other parts of the city: Plaza Mayor with Zarzuela shows and Castilian folklore displays; the Valladolid bullring with the bullfighting fair; Plaza de Portugaleta with the International Record Fair; Las Moreras beach with activities aimed at the youth, and Poniente Square, which will host children's activities for the first time. Other noteworthy events include the floral carpets made in Plaza del Salvador, next to the statue of San Pedro Regalado, and the 10th Asparagus Days of Tudela de Duero and Lechazo IGP of Castile and León.





THE TREASURE OF ARRABALDE IN ZAMORA

The Treasure of Arrabalde is one of Zamora's most precious assets and is housed in the rooms of the Zamora Museum, located in the capital. It was the result of a chance discovery at the eastern end of the hillfort, within the inhabited area. The set of jewels was found inside a dark handmade ceramic vessel, undecorated, which was discovered as a result of digging a trench to create a firewall that cut through the entire site. The set of pieces consisted of around fifty gold and silver items. The collection of jewels, promptly categorised as Celtiberian despite its discovery in an Asturian hillfort, consisted of sixteen torques, fourteen made of silver and two of silver-gold alloy, along with silver vessels and six fibulae. Four of the fibulae were promptly described as “spectacular” by experts, showcasing La Tène style with animal protomes, while the others were simpler, also following the La Tène style. Additionally, there were four spiral bracelets adorned with stamped decoration and bracelets terminating in serpent heads. In 1984, Vicente Sánchez de Arza announced at a numismatic congress held in Oviedo that a set of coins had been found: 16 Iberian pieces and 4 Roman ones.



**REMEMBER, IN CASTILLA
Y LEÓN, YOU'LL FIND
EVERYTHING AND
MORE...
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
YOU!!!**



LAS POSADAS REALES PROPOSALS



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informacion@lasmayas.es

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info@laposadadelbuencamino.com

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INCOMING TOUR OPERATORS PROPOSALS

In this newsletter, we would also like to share the proposals of some incoming tour operators in Castilla y León that organise different activities based on their thorough knowledge of the area and extensive experience.

- **PILGRIMS' ROUTE TO SANTIAGO OPTIONS**

Specialised in the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago.
www.rutasdelcaminodesantiago.com/historia-del-camino
miguelangel@rutasdelcaminodesantiago.com

- **DESTINO DIVINO**

Wine tourism and family tourism activities.
www.destino-divino.com/experiencias-en-familia/
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- **NIS-NORTH INCOMING SERVICE SL**

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- **RESERVASLEON.COM**

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- **VERONIA TOURS SL**

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- **ALACARTA WINE & GOURMET TOURS**

Specialised in exclusive trips and experiences focused on wine and cuisine.
www.alacarta.es
info@alacarta.es

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Receptive tour operator for all pilgrimage routes on the Iberian Peninsula.
www.mundicamino.com
travel@mundicamino.com

- **WELLBEDS**

Reservation portal specialized in health and well-being.
www.wellbeds.es
info@wellbeds.es

- **THEWAYTOURS**

Circular tour of the Picos de Europa.
<https://www.thewaytours.com/packages/circular-tour-picos-de-europa-2/>
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- **NATURALISTE**

Trips and tours to Arribes del Duero, Sierra de la Culebra, Sanabria, Sierra de Francia...
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